

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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February 10, 1999 LB 231, 514

be recognized on...

SENATOR BROMM: Yeah, thank you. There are...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Mr. Speaker. The Chair recognizes the Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. At this point in time before we move, quickly I, given the mood of the body, it's eleven-thirty. I think we should move at this point in time to the motion to pull.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion. Senator Beutler would move to raise...to place LB 231 on General File, not withholding the action of the Revenue Committee. Motion was filed on February 2, Mr. President. It's found on page 417.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler, to open on his motion.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is the first time in at least 12 years and, although my memory dims more every day, I think it's the first time ever that I have filed a motion to raise a bill from a committee, but I think once in awhile there is an issue, a public policy issue, that's so important that we really need to do that if for no other reason than to have a thorough discussion of the matter and to sensitize, hopefully, everybody to the potential importance of the issue. The Revenue Committee has indefinitely postponed LB 231, which means I need 30 votes to raise it to the floor. That bill would have made permanent a one dollar per ton fertilizer tax, which is currently due to expire on December 31st of next year. The result will be the loss next year of approximately 2.3 to 2.5 million dollars a year to the natural resource districts, which they would have had otherwise to apply to groundwater quality programs, and I'll try to describe that to you in more detail shortly. That action was wrong, in my opinion, because it sent out two distinct negative messages. The first message is that Nebraska apparently does not intend to intelligently deal with its number one pollution